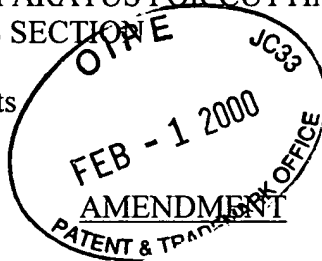


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Bauer et al. Art Unit : 3724  
 Serial No. : 08/659,046 Examiner : Dexter, C.  
 Filed : June 3, 1996  
 Title : METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CUTTING BODIES HAVING A NON-CIRCULAR CROSS SECTION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
 Washington, D.C. 20231



# 25/E  
 2/8/00  
 V/Phant

In response to the action mailed September 30, 1999, please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

Amend claim 17 as follows:

RECEIVED  
 FEB - 7 2000  
 3100 MAIL ROOM

--17. (Amended) A device comprising first and second hand-held tools for shearing by transverse forces a body having a non-circular cross-section by the application of torsional force, said first tool comprising a first disc and said second tool comprising a second disc [upper and lower discs], each of said discs having an upper side and a lower side, said [upper] first disc having opposing cutting edges [in the form of a fixed slot at its lower side] formed by a slot of fixed dimensions, and said [lower] second disc having opposing cutting edges [in the form of a fixed slot at its upper side] formed by a slot of fixed dimensions, said [sides] discs directly touching each other at said edges, each of said discs having a handle attached thereto for rotating said discs counter to one another about a rotation axis to apply a torsional shearing force on the body in a plane transverse to the longitudinal axis of the body,

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL

I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Date of Deposit January 28, 2000

Signature Sheri Wysocki

Typed or Printed Name of Person Signing Certificate Sheri Wysocki